

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5774
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UNCLAS TORONTO 1664

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: ONTARIO LEGISLATURE OPENS SHORT SUMMER SESSION

REF: (A) TORONTO 1631; (B) TORONTO 1663

1. THE 31ST GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
CONVENED JUNE 27 AND THE MINORITY GOVERNMENT OF PROGRESSIVE
CONSERVATIVE PREMIER WILLIAM DAVIS, IN A SHORT SPEECH
FROM THE THRONE, ANNOUNCED HOPES TO PUSH THROUGH
5 KEY POLICIES BEFORE SUMMER ADJOURNMENT JULY 8. THESE
ARE (A) PASSAGE OF THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET FIRST
BROUGHT DOWN APRIL 19 AND DEFERRED WITH THE DISSOLUTION
OF THE PARLIAMENT APRIL 29; (B) LEGISLATION FORCING THE
ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO BUILD A FRENCH
LANGUAGE SCHOL; (C) A BILL TO CREATE THE NEW MINISTRY
OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS; (D) AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT ACT TO AUTHORIZE JUSTICE PATRICK HART TO PROBE
DEVELOPMENT NORTH OF THE 50TH PARALLEL; (E) ESTABLISH N
PROVINCE-WIDE SINGLE-TRADE BARGAINING FOR PARTS OF
THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

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2. AT OPENING SESSION, ATTORNEY GENERAL MCMURTCY
SATISFIED NDP LEADER LEWIS' CONCERN REGARDING MEASURES
TO BE TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH IMPRISONMENT OF NDP

MEMBER ZIEMBA (REF A) BY PROPOSING THAT ONTARIO COURT
OF APPEALS RULE ON HYPOTHETICAL CASE OF PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATOR'S RIGHT NOT TO DISCLOSE SOURCES. LEWIS

WITHDREW REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY DEBATE ON ISSUE.

3.COMMENT: UNLESS THERE IS RADICAL CHANGE IN PARTY
POSITIONS, PART OF PROVINCIAL BUDGET SUBMISSION DEALING
WITH FIVE CENT TAX ON CANNED SOFT DRINKS WILL NOT PASS AND
WILL PROBABLY BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE SECOND READING. NDP
OPPOSES INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION JUNE 27 AND LIBERAL
OPPOSITION, WHILE AGREEING TO LEGISLATION INTRODUCTION
TO SAVE MINORITY TORY GOVERNMENT, ANNOUNCED
IT WOULD VOTE AGAINST SECOND READING.
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Message Attributes

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